



INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

THE Study of Geography has a peculiar Claim to the Attention of Mankind in general; and cannot be too earnestly recommended to all Ranks of People. This pleasing, useful, and delightful Science, displays to our View, in the most entertaining and profitable Manner, a general Knowledge of the World. A good Work of this Kind, exhibits to Persons of every Capacity and Situation in Life, an authentic Account of whatever is worthy of Notice, in the various Countries of the Universe. It not only furnishes a Description, but also an Historical and Political Representation of all the several Provinces, Districts, and Subdivisions of every Country; together with a clear, natural, and methodical Detail of the Customs, Manners, Dresses, Ceremonies, and present State of the Inhabitants; the most remarkable Events that have transpired, from the earliest Period to the present Time; and the Consequences that have attended them: Also an accurate and impartial History and Survey of their Laws, Government, Maxims of Policy, Forces, Revenue, Trade and Commerce, and a great Variety of other important and interesting Particulars, some of which are enumerated in our Title Page.

The Public in general are so thoroughly convinced of the Utility of this Subject, that it might possibly be thought Impertinent to dwell long on the Recommendation of it.

The Pleasure, as well as Profit, attending the Perusal of Books of this Sort, has made them more universally Read than any other Branch of polite Literature; and the Study of Geography has now become one of the most fashionable Pursuits of the present Age, for both Sexes. In short, this is a Subject in which every Man is materially interested; for, as a celebrated Author justly observes, "There is not a Son or a Daughter of Adam, but has some Concern in Geography."

However, amidst the Variety of Publications on this Subject, which have made their Appearance from Time to Time, it has been Matter of great Astonishment to many, that no one has been written on an improved Plan of general Information, containing all the recent Discoveries, and which may be suitable to such as wish to gain a perfect Knowledge of Men and Things in every Part of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. This has been, most certainly, a general Complaint throughout this Country; but, without pointing out the Errors and Absurdities of other Writers, we now offer to the Public **A NEW AND UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF GEOGRAPHY**, being a complete History and Description of the **WHOLE WORLD**, upon such an improved and extensive Plan, as has been long wished for.

Our Readers will have no Reason to complain that they have been caught by an inviting Title Page, or that they have received less than they promised themselves, from the Perusal of this new and improved Performance. We acknowledge that we have promised much, but we likewise confidently assert that our Performances will not be found inadequate to our Proposals. —The most ample Fortune of the richest Man, and the longest Life of the most laborious

Traveller,